THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) The number of applications pending for excel pre-paid connections of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in the State of Jharkhand are 1,25,852.

(b) and (c) In Jharkhand, BSNL has so far provided around 2,13,200 cellular mobile connections and is augmenting its network capacity by 2.5 Lakh lines during the current financial year. Accordingly, it will ease the availability of pre-paid cellular mobile connections in the State.

E-Auction of Coal

†*335. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sale of coal through E-auction was introduced in the country;

(b) if sc, the date on which the said process for sale of coal was introduced;

(c) whether it is also a fact that certain people had objected to against the said process; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and whether the Guwahati High Court has declared the said process as unconstitutional, if so, the process to be adopted by the Government for the sale of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Subsequent to the directions of Hon'ble High court of Kolkata dated 13.5.2004 in Writ Petition No. 1199 of 2000, a transparent and objective marketing scheme was introduced on trial basis in the form of e-auction, in November, 2004 in Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) and was subsequently extended to all subsidiaries of CIL.

(c) Various consumers have objected to the e-auction initiative and have taken up the matter in various Courts.

(d) While hearing petitions filed by various non-core consumers/ traders against e-auction sale of coal by North Eastern Coalfields (NEC), the Hon'ble Guwahati High Court, on 8.4.2005, passed an Order to the

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

effect that the issue be referred to an Expert Committee and till such time the e-auction scheme be suspended. Coal India Limited filed Special Leave Petition (SLP) in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India against the Judgment of Hon'ble Guwahati High Court. In its Order dated 3rd March, 2005 and subsequently confirmed by its Order dated 2.5.2005, the Hon'ble Supreme Court permitted e-auction in NEC, subject to certain conditions. Hon'ble Supreme Court also directed that cases against e-auction pending in other High Courts also be transferred to the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The matter is *sub-judice*.

Demand for opening of Stilwell road to Myanmar

*336. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increasing demand for re-opening of the historic Stilwell road to Myanmar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have decided to give its nod to such a proposal; and

(c) if so, the details of the same including the stipulated time period within which the proposal would materialise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) The demand for reopening of Stilwell Road has been receiving the attention of the Government. However, no decision has been taken in the matter.

Use of Earthquake Resistant Technology for Buildings

†*337. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the parts of country hit by the earthquake in October, 2005 and what is the loss of life and property suffered by the States alongwith their names;

(b) to what degree Delhi is safe from earthquakes;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for compulsory use of earthquake resistant-technology in the newly built buildings;

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.